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REMARKS

By the above amendments, applicant has amended claims 1, 5 and 7. Claims 2, 3, 6 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-12 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 12, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hiraishi et al. (US2003/0156238)

In response to the rejection of claim 1, applicant traverses as follows:

Amended claim 1 recites in part:

A light guide assembly comprising: "the masking film is provided on the light emitting surface for blocking UV rays from penetrating therethrough, and the masking film is made of a transparent metal oxide or SiO₂.

Applicant submits that Hiraishi et al. does not disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest the invention as recited in amended claim 1.

Hiraishi et al. does disclose a light guide assembly including a light guide plate having a light incidence surface, a light emitting surface and a film provided on the light emitting surface and blocking UV rays. However, Hiraishi et al. does not disclose or suggest a light guide assembly in which "...

the masking film is made of a transparent metal oxide or SiO₂.". That is, in Hiraishi et al., the masking film composed of a plurality of resins which are different from each other in refractive index. This difference indicates that Hiraishi et al. fails to teach or suggest the light guide assembly as recited in amended claim 1.

In summary, there is nothing in the cited reference that teaches or suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art that they might or should provide the light guide assembly of amended claim 1. Furthermore, the light guide assembly as recited in amended claim 1 produces new and unexpected results. That is, the light guide assembly can protect the light guide plate from

Appl. No. 10/788,689 Amdt. dated Aug. 29, 2005 Reply to Office Action of May 27, 2005 discoloration due to external UV rays.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be novel, unobvious and patentable over Hiraishi et al. under both s.102(e) and s.103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of amended claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claim 4 directly depends from amended claim 1. Therefore claim 4 should also be allowable.

For reasons similar to those asserted above in relation to amended claim 1, applicant submits that amended claim 5 should also be allowable.

For reasons similar to those asserted above in relation to amended claim 1, applicant submits that amended claim 7 should also be allowable.

Claims 8, 9, 12, 13 directly depend from amended claim 7. Therefore claims 8, 9, 12, 13 should also be allowable.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi et al. (US 2003/0156238) in view of Okumura et al. (US 6,100,633).

Claim 2 has been canceled, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi et al. (US 2003/0156238) in view of Chandehari et al. (US 6,673,524).

Claim 3 has been canceled, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi et al. (US 2003/0156238) in view of Iwamatsu et al. (US 6,565,932)

Claim 6 has been canceled, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 6 are respectfully requested.

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Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi et al. (US 2003/0156238).

In response to this rejection, applicant traverses as follows:

Claim 11 depends indirectly from amended claim 7. As asserted above, claim 7 is novel and unobvious over Hiraishi et al. Therefore claim 11 should also be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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